

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 23-27 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are pending and under consideration.

ADVISORY ACTION

In the Advisory Action mailed November 16, 2007, the Examiner noted that claims 1-10 are rejected. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hashiba et al. (JP 2001-149685) (hereinafter "Hashiba"). Further, claims 4, 6-7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashiba in view of Mueller et al. (US 5,507,053) (hereinafter "Mueller").

Hashiba discusses a drum type washing machine designed to facilitate removal of a washing heater and cleaning of a portion containing it. In Hashiba, heater case 65 is detachably mounted in the bottom of a water tank 33 and the washing heater 73 is contained within the heater case 65, so that removal of the washing heater 73 for inspection, replacement and the like of the washing heater 73 and a cleaning operation for removing dust such as waste thread collecting in the portion containing it can be carried out by tilting an outer casing 21 and removing the washing heater 73 along with the heater case 65 from an opening 24 in the bottom.

Claims 1-10

Amended claim 1 recites: "...a sidewall part which is closed and extends between the rear part and the front part wherein an inner diameter of the sidewall part increases along a direction from the rear part to the front part to allow an internal surface of the sidewall part to be inclined." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 7.

In the continuation sheet attached to the Advisory Action, the Examiner noted that in their previous form, claim 1 did not distinguish that the first and second predetermined angles of inclination were different from each other and further that the starting and ending points were not defined. Claim 1 has been amended to clearly recite that the sidewall part which is closed and extends between the rear part and the front part wherein an inner diameter of the sidewall part increases along a direction from the rear part to the front part to allow an internal surface of the

sidewall part to be inclined. For exemplary purposes, please refer to Figures 4 and 5 of the present application.

In the reference relied on by the Examiner, Hashiba, it appears that the tank 33 and rotary drum 42 are inclined at a single, consistent angle corresponding to the inclination of the shaft of the motor 88 and would therefore have a constant internal diameter. However, to anticipate claim 1 in its currently amended form, it is respectfully submitted that the rotary drum 42 should have inclined internal surface, and an increasing internal diameter, which is not shown in the drawings of Hashiba.

The technical feature of claim 1 of an inclined internal surface of the rotary drum provides for a washing machine which uses less water, and reduces an amount of electricity required to heat the water, and reduces washing time, without reducing the washing effect of the drum washing machine.

Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 2-6 and 8-10 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: November 23, 2007

By: Gregory W. Harper
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501